

SENATE SOCIALIZES BEFORE MEETING--Margaret Howe
Ed Dorman

After an hour of refreshments and conversation, a lengthy business session got underway. Tom Jones reported on the last COSFL meeting which included a long discussion with George Atkins and election of officers. The 1981-82 slate includes: Tom Jones, Chair; Steve West, Vice-Chair and legislation liaison; Ron Veenker, Secretary. Reports from Standing Committees communicated the following:

Executive Committee.

Senator Weigel said that in the future it will be taken for granted that his committee has drawn up the agenda for Senate meetings. No report will be made unless special need arises.

By-Laws, Amendments, Elections Committee.

Senator Jones noted two proposed changes in the by-laws. An opinion poll was conducted concerning the voting power of Senate alternates. This committee is also charged with the responsibility of evaluating committee descriptions, updating them where indicated.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee.

Senator Murphy said his committee is pursuing ideas from questionnaires in previous years. Priority is being given to achieving equitable employment and tenure policies. Insurance matters are also being investigated.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee.

Senator Pearson said his committee is working to implement the Senate's procedure for processing faculty grievances. Because many grievances arise from perceived inequities in evaluation of faculty performance, this committee will study evaluation procedures carefully. Suggestions about how to handle grievances will be welcomed.

Institutional Goals and Planning Committee.

Senator Seeger reported that the rewriting of the university's mission statement by the administration has presented a new challenge. This committee is interested in exploring faculty views of institutional goals. Retooling of faculty to areas of need is being investigated, and an effort is being made to cooperate with other Kentucky schools in facing common problems. Two challenges were identified: 1. external: WKU and the Council on Higher Education appear to be on a collision course. 2. internal: There is a noticeable lack of faculty views in significant areas of university life. (Senator Krenzin responded saying that in recent years there have been changes in policy. Faculty ideas are being sought and faculty ideas are being implemented by the administration.)

Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Senator Hoyt predicted yet another budget cut in the not-too-distant future. His committee will try to establish close working relationships with the administration. It will also investigate apparent inequities in the amount of money spent by the various colleges. Faculty/Student ratio in these colleges will be studied.

Academic Affairs Committee.

Senator Robe said the study of grading policies may be continued and pre-enrollment problems will be investigated.

Senate Communications Committee.

Senator Bryant mentioned a new feature of the Senate Newsletter--a response from President Zacharias on issues raised by faculty. A request was made for the names and addresses of emeritus faculty who would like to receive the newsletter.

Committee on Committees.

Senator Salem said the committee had received requests for nominations from President Zacharias in the last three months. Norman Holy was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee to replace Hugh Thomason, who retired. Kathleen Kalab, Michael Taylor and Philip Constans were nominated for the committee on grievance procedures. Because the current selection procedure limits nominations to those people known by the committee members, Senator Salem suggested department heads be asked to supply information on their faculty, indicating past and present committee assignments, preferences, etc. Senator Salem said he thought the present structure did not assure fair representation. Therefore, he resigned as chairperson of the Committee on Committees and as a faculty senator.

NEW BUSINESS:

Two matters were brought up. The first was the election of one representative to COSFL and two alternates. Nominations were made from the floor. Harry Robe was elected representative and Ron Seeger and William Davis were elected alternates.

The second matter was a discussion of the report of the Task Force on Admissions. Chairman James Flynn asked the Senate for questions about, or comments on, the report. A long discussion followed.

President Zacharias advised the Senate that various groups were interested in seeing the final document, but that no one would be bypassed during its construction.

Senator Henrickson asked whether any other state institutions had carried out such a study, and whether any state laws prohibit our establishing admission standards. President Zacharias answered yes and no respectively.

New Business (cont.)

Senator Grise asked how high schools feel about our establishing academic admission requirements. Zacharias said he had talked to two principals who were for them and to one superintendent who was against them. He added that such requirements could embarrass some public schools and said there may be some students in universities who should not be there.

Senator Murphy said that some concern had been expressed in his department (history) that the beginning date, 1983, might be too soon, but added that another date, 1985, had also been mentioned in the report. Dr. Flynn replied that the standards were intended to be applied only as recommendations in 1983 and as requirements in 1985.

Senator Henrickson said that high school teachers want us to tell them, in an official way, what their students should be able to do; that this would give them a means of defending their academic core.

Senator Weigel asked how the requirements in recommendation No. 2 compare with those now in force. R.D. Reynolds gave the Kentucky high school requirements as:

English 3 units, Math 2, Science 2, Social Studies 2, Health and Physical Education 1, Electives 8.

Senator Harryman said that a student could be brilliant, satisfy all of the other requirements but lack one unit of English. Therefore, realizing that he did not satisfy our admission requirements, he might not even inquire at Western, but go elsewhere.

Senator Grise asked whether the proposed requirements added predictors (of the student's performance at Western) beyond the very good predictor which is the ACT score. He expressed doubt that they would.

Senator Trutty-Coohill asked how--given the feature of conditional admissions--the university would be better off with the proposed policy than it is now?

Dr. Flynn estimated that the possibility of conditional admission would arise for only about 10 percent of applicants, and that in such cases the university would not automatically admit the student.

Senator Humphrey pointed out that, although the proposed policy did require 4 units of English, it required that only $\frac{1}{2}$ unit of this be grammar, and only $\frac{1}{2}$ be composition, whereas the 3 other units could be anything taught under the name of English. He urged that the grammar and composition requirements be increased. Dr. Flynn replied that the proposed requirements constituted an attempt to be realistic. Senator Henrickson strongly agreed with Senator Humphrey, stating that these courses were the most important these students could take.

Senator Bowen asked what weight could we expect our recommendations to have, citing the example of the Foreign Language recommendation. She recommended the addition of a Foreign Language requirement to the admission requirements.

New Business (cont.)

Senator Hoyt asked why the mathematics requirement should include algebra I and plane geometry, since these are not taught in math 109. Senator Pulsinelli responded that major programs in many departments, outside Ogden College, require their students to be able to use mathematical methods not included in math 109, and that students who come to a university mathematically illiterate can have doors shut to them, and may pay a price for this the rest of their lives. Dr. Flynn expressed the importance of a person's competence both in his native language and in "mathematical language."

*President Zacharias said he would like to hear how the faculty members feel about the admissions proposal and about having such requirements at all.

Senator Henrickson asked for a vote among those present on whether to have admission requirements or not. Senator Long replied that there were not enough senators still present to have a meaningful vote (about one-half the senators were, at this time, absent), and that he would vote against it for that reason. Senator Henrickson moved that the Senate support the concept of minimum academic standards for admission to the university. The motion was carried by voice vote.

* All faculty are encouraged to send their opinions about the admissions requirement proposal and suggestions for improvement to President Zacharias by September 25, 1981.

It wouldn't take anyone long to determine that Western's budget is the Senate's most pressing problem this year. Not only faculty and staff salaries, but also every aspect of our work at Western is affected by the budget. According to COSFL figures, however, Western faculty may have less reason to gripe than faculties at other state universities. Although Governor Brown stated that faculty salary increases of 9% were not to be reduced at the time of the spring budget cuts, presidents at the other universities simply felt it was impossible to balance the budget and leave those increases intact. COSFL figures indicate:

WKU had raises of between 9-10%. MuSU: minimum of 8.1%; average 9.4% (promotions more). NKU: 7% overall; 9.5% with merit increase. MuSU: 9% announced by administration, but 7.5% was given in some cases. KSU: 4% base, 3% added for merit. VP made decisions unilaterally with regard to the other 2% giving individuals up to 15%. UL: 5.5-.75% basic; 2.75-3.0 merit; promotion .8%.

It would appear from the above figures that President Zacharias was able to get the best increases in the state for Western's faculty.

Nevertheless, prospects for the future do not look too bright since Governor Brown has said that no more dollars can be requested by executive agencies in fiscal year 1983 than were received in fiscal year 1982. When inflation is added to that picture, the situation looks even darker.

Mr. Joe Bill Campbell, member of the Board of Regents, says that the community doesn't believe Western is hurting because they don't see blood running from the hill. I'm not prepared to show them I'm bleeding, personally, by biking to Krogers and returning with 25 lbs. of beans over my shoulder so I don't think I'll complain about my salary. However, I am prepared to describe other types of bleeding. I could tell them about the massive quantities of paint peeling off the walls in the back stairway of the Garrett Conference Center because we can't afford paint where building preservation isn't involved. I could tell them about the broken light fixture in my classroom, but we won't try to replace it because it's an alternate that we can't afford to turn on anyway. I could tell them that the weeds on campus, that we can't afford to cut as often as before are making me sneeze. I could tell them about custodians who used to work an evening shift that permitted them to carry on family responsibilities during the day; with the decrease in the work force they have been shifted to days. I could tell them of the many students who returned to campus this fall to find that the classes for which they had preregistered had been cancelled because Western could not afford to hire teachers to teach them. I could tell them about a 400 level accounting class of 80 students. I could tell them of several sections of math for non-math-lovers of over 100 students. I could tell them that the phone in the Art Department may not be answered for an hour at a time because there is no student helper to take over while the secretary stands in line at the Xerox machine. And, I think I will tell them!

However, while I am saying that we are bleeding, I want to be sure that they hear about all the great things we want to preserve. I want them to know that Texas Instruments prefers Western students over all others in the country to work on their computers. I want them to know about the parents I met during my stint outside one of the dorms on moving in day, who said they had brought their son here from New Jersey because of Western's program in Journalism. I want them to know about the statistics compiled by Dean Lloyd which showed from citings in ISI Science Citation Index for 1976-1980 that Kentucky's top six scholars, in terms of scholarly production are:

#1 N.L.Holy	Western	30 citations
#2 S.W.Yates	UK	28
#3 W.T.Smith	UK	25
#4 D.A. Butterfield	UK	22
#5 D.B. Dupre	U of L	21
#6 T.P. Coohill	Western	18

If there are some other Dean Lloyds on campus with statistics to prove our point, the Senate would like to hear about them. We'd like to shout our story loudly enough so that the legislature will feel compelled to find us enough money to keep our programs afloat.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Fall Semester Faculty Senate meetings:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 10	Garrett Ballroom
October 8	Garrett Ballroom
November 12	Regents Room
December 10	Garrett Ballroom

Faculty Senate Office has moved! The new location is Room 516 Grise Hall. The Telephone number is 5325. Our new secretary is Amy Lucas .

One copy of the minutes of each Faculty Senate meeting is placed in the Reference Room, Helm Library, for faculty who wish to read the official proceedings of the Senate.

INTRODUCING A NEW FEATURE:

The Communications Committee is pleased to announce that President Zacharias will answer questions of concern to faculty in the Senate NEWSLETTER on a regular basis. Please submit signed questions to Sue Bryant, Nursing Department, Academic Complex.

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